THE GUITAR OF

ROBERT JOHNSON

Disc One
GW850

Taught by

TOM FELDMANN

Contents

Right Hand Fingering: p = thumb, i = index, m = middle.

A slide symbol, a sloped dash, with no preceding grace note,
indicates a short slide attack, usually short, with no defined starting place.

Verse numbers in the lyrics indicate which verse in the tab is used for the accompaniment.

Kindhearted Woman Blues

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7
A7
A°7
A7
E7
D7
A
E7

A7
2

A°7
A7
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7
A
E7
A7
A°7
3
A7
A°7
A7
A°7
A7

A7
Dm6
A
A7
Dm6
A
A7
A°7
A7
E7
D7
A
E7

A7
Dm6
A
GUITAR BREAK

A7
Dm6
A

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7

A7
A°7
4

A7
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7
A7

KIND HEARTED WOMAN

(1) I got a kind hearted woman do anything in this world for me
I got a kind hearted woman do anything in this world for me
But these evil-hearted women man they will not let me be

(2) I love my baby my baby don't love me
I love my baby oooh my baby don't love me
I really love that woman can't stand to leave her be

(3) Ain't but the one thing makes Mister Johnson drink
I's worried 'bout how you treat me baby I begin to think
Oh babe my life don't feel the same
You breaks my heart when you call Mister So-and-So's name

Guitar break

(4) She's a kindhearted woman she studies evil all the time
She's a kindhearted woman she studies evil all the time
You well's to kill me as to have it on your mind

Phonograph Blues

by Robert Johnson © Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc.

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7

A7
A°7
2

A7
A°7
A7
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7

A7
A°7
3

A7
A°7
A7
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7

A7
4
A7
A°7
A7
D7
A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7
A7

PHONOGRAPH BLUES

(1) Beatrice she got a phonograph and it won't say a lonesome word
Beatrice she got a phonograph and it won't say a lonesome word
What evil have I done what evil has the poor girl heard

(2) Beatrice I love my phonograph but you have broke my windin' chain
Beatrice I love my phonogra-ooo honey you have broke my windin' chain
And you've taken my lovin and give it to your other man

(3) Now we played it on the sofa now we played it side the wall
My needles have got rusty babe they will not play at all
We played it on the sofa and we played it side the wall
But my needles have got rusty and it will not play at all

(4) Beatrice I go crazy baby I will lose my mind
And I go crazy honey I will lose my mind
Why'n't you bring your clothes back home and try me one more time

(4) She got a phonograph and it won't say a lonesome word
She got a phonograph won't say a lonesome word
What evil have I done or what evil have the poor girl heard

32-20 Blues

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7
A
E7
A7
A°7
A7
2
D7
A7
E7
D7
A
E7

A7
A°7
A7
3
D7
A7
E7
A
E7
D7
A
E7

A7
A°7
A7
4

D7

A7
E7

D7
A
E7

A7
A°7
A7
5

D7

A7
E7

D7
A
E7

A7
A°7
A7
6

D7

A7
E7

D7
A
E7

A7
A°7
A7
7
D7
A7
E7
D7
A
E7
A7

32-20 BLUES

(1) I send for my baby and she don't come
I send for my baby man and she don't come
All the doctors in Hot Springs sure can't help her none

(2) And if she gets unruly thinks she don't wanna do
If she gets unruly and thinks she don't wanna do
Take my 32-20 now and cut her half in two

(3) She got a 38 special but I believe it's most too light
She got a 38 special but I believe it's most too light
I got a 32-20 got to make the camps alright

(4) I send for my baby man and she don't come
I send for my baby man and she don't come
All the doctors in Hot Springs sure can't help her none

(3) I'm gonna shoot my pistol I'm gonna shoot my Gatling gun
I'm gonna shoot my pistol got to shoot my Gatling gun
You made me love you now your man have come

(5) Ah-oh baby where you stay last night
Ah-ah baby where you stayed last night
You gotta hair all tangled and you ain't talkin' right

(6) Got a 38 special boys it do very well
A 38 special boys it do very well
I got a 32-20 now and it's a burnin'

(4) If I send for my baby man and she don't come
If I send for my baby man and she don't come
All the doctors in Wisconsin sure can't help her none

(4) Hey hey baby where you stay last night
Hey hey baby where you stay last night
You didn't come home until the sun was shining bright

(7) Ah-oh boys I just can't take my rest
Ah-oh boys I just can't take my rest
With this 32-20 laying up and down my breast

Dead Shrimp Blues

by Robert Johnson © Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc.

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7
3
3
3
♩=♩.

A7
A°7
A7
♩.=♩

E7
D7

A
E7
A7

Little Queen of Spades

by Robert Johnson

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7

A7
A°7
A
A7

E7
D7

A
E7

A7
A°7
2

A
A°7
Dm6
A
Dm6
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7
A
E7
A7
A°7
3
A°7
Dm6
A
Dm6
A°7
A7

D7

A7
A°7
A7

E7
D7

A
E7
A7

LITTLE QUEEN OF SPADES

(1) Now she is a little queen of spades and the men will not let her be
Mmmm she is the little queen of spades and the men will not let her be
Every time she makes a spread hoo fair brown cold chill just runs all over me

(2) I'm gon' get me a gamblin' woman if the last thing that I do
Eee gon' get me a gamblin' woman if it's the last thing that I do
Well a man don't need a woman ooh fair brown that he got to give all his money to

(2) Everybody say she got a mojo now she's been usin' that stuff
Mmmm, mmmm, everybody says she got a mojo 'cause she been usin' that stuff
But she got a way trimmin' down hoo fair brown and I mean it's most too tough

(3) Now little girl since I am the king baby and you is a queen
Ooo eee since I am the king baby and you is a queen
Let's us put our heads together hoo fair brown then we can make our money green

I'm a Steady Rollin' Man

Standard Tuning, Key of A

D7

A

E
D

A

A
2
D7
A

E
D

A

A
3

D7

A

E
D

A

A
4
D7
A

E
D
7 5 7 7 7 7 5 5 7 7 7 7 5 7 0
5 5 5 3 3 5 5 3 3 5 0 0 0

A
E7
A

E7
A7

I'M A STEADY ROLLIN' MAN

(1) I'm a steady rollin' man I roll both night and day
I'm a steady rollin' man hmm I roll both night and day
But I haven't got no sweet woman hmm boys to be rollin' this way

(2) I'm the man that rolls when icicle's hangin' on the tree
I'm the man that rolls when icicle's hangin' on the tree
And now you hear me howlin' baby hmm down on my bended knee

(3) I'm a hard workin' man have been for many years I know
I'm a hard workin' man have been for many long years I know
And some cream puff's usin' my money Ooh, babe but that'll never be no more

(4) You can't give your sweet woman everything she wants in one time
Ooh ooh, you can't give your sweet woman everything she wants in one time
Well boys she get ramblin' in her brain hmm some monkey man on her mind

(4) I'm a steady rollin' man I roll both night and day
I'm a steady rollin' man and I roll both night and day
Well I don't have no sweet woman hmm boys to be rollin' this way

Sweet Home Chicago
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Standard Tuning, Key of E
Swing tempo
INTRO
E
E7
B7
1
E
A
E
A
E
B7

(A9)
E
B7

E
A
E
2

A

E
B7

(A9)
E
B7
E
E
3
A
E
B7

(A9)
E
E7
3
3

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

(1) Oh baby don't you want to go
Oh baby don't you want to go
Back to the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

(2) Oh baby don't you want to go
Oh baby don't you want to go
Back to the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

(3) Now one and one is two, two and two is four
I'm heavy loaded baby I'm booked I gotta go
Cryin' baby honey don't you want to go
Back to the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

(3) Now two and two is four, four and two is six
You gonna keep on monkeyin' 'round here friend-boy
you gonna get your business all in a trick
But I'm cryin' baby honey don't you wanna go
Back to the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

(3) Now six and two is eight, eight and two is ten
Friend-boy she trick you one time she sure gonna do it again
But I'm cryin' hey baby don't you want to go
To the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

(3) I'm goin' to California from there to Des Moines, Iowa'y
Somebody will tell me that you need my help someday
Cryin' hey hey baby don't you want to go
Back to the land of California to my sweet home Chicago

Love In Vain Blues

by Robert Johnson

G
D7
G
A7

D7
G
D7

G
G7
2

C

G
D7
G
A7

D7
G
D7

G
G7
3

C

G
D7
G
A7

D7
G
D7

G
G7
4

G
G7
D7
G
A7
9
8

D7
G
D7
G
9
8
12
8

LOVE IN VAIN

(1) And I followed her to the station with her suitcase in my hand
And I followed her to the station, with her suitcase in my hand
Well it's hard to tell it's hard to tell when all your love's in vain
All my love's in vain

(2) When the train rolled up to the station I looked her in the eye
When the train rolled up to the station and I looked her in the eye
Well I was lonesome I felt so lonesome and I could not help but cry
All my love's in vain

(3) When the train it left the station there was two lights on behind
When the train it left the station there was two lights on behind
Well the blue light was my blues and the red light was my mind
All my love's in vain

(4) Ou hou hoo Willie Mae
Oh hey hoo Willie Mae
Ou ou ouo hee hee oh woe
All my love's in vain

by Robert Johnson

Standard Tuning, Key of C

C
A7
3
D7

G
G7
C
C7
F
Fm
G

C
C
2

C7
F
Fm7

C
A7
D7
G
G7
C
C7
F
Fm
G
C
C
3
C7
F
Fm7

C
A7
D7
G
G7
C
C7
F
Fm
C
4
C
C7
F
Fm7

C
A7
D7

G
G7
C7
F
Fm

C
5
C

C7
(C°)

C
A7
D7

G
G7
C7
F
Fm
G

C7
ENDING

FROM FOUR TILL LATE

(1) From four until late I was wringin' my hands and cryin'
From four until lateI was wringin' my hands and cryin'
I believe to my soul that your daddy's Gulfport bound

(2) From Memphis to Norfolk is a thirty six hour ride
From Memphis to Norfolk is a thirty six hour ride
A man is like a prisoner and he's never satisfied

(3) A woman is like a dresser some man always ramblin' through its drawer
A woman is like a dresser some man always ramblin' through its drawer
It cause so many men wear an apron overhaul

(4) From four until late she get with a no good bunch and clown
From four until late she get with a no good bunch and clown
Now she won't do nothin' but tear a good mans reputation down

(5) When I leave this town I'm gonna bid you fare farewell
When I leave this town I'm gonna bid you fare farewell
And when I return again you'll have a great long story to tell

Malted Milk

by Robert Johnson

A7
G

C°7
B°7
A7

D7
G
D
2

G

D

A7
G

B7
B♭7
A7

D7
G
D
3

G

D

A7
G

B7
B♭7
A7

D7
G
4
D
G
D

A7
(G7)
bend
release

(D)
freely
D
bend
release

MALTED MILK

(1) I keep drinkin' malted milk try'n to drive my blues away
I keep drinkin' malted milk try'n to drive my blues away
Baby you just as welcome to my lovin' as the flowers is in May

(2) Malted milk malted milk keep rushin' to my head
Malted milk malted milk keep rushin' to my head
And I have a funny funny feelin' and I'm talkin' all out my head

(3) Baby fix me one more drink and hug your daddy one more time
Baby fix me one more drink and hug your daddy one more time
Keep on stirrin' in my malted milk mama until I change my mind

(4) My door knob keeps on turnin' it must be spooks around my bed
My door knob keeps on turnin' must be spooks around my bed
I have a warm old feelin' and the hair risin' on my head

Hellhound On My Trail

Cross-Note Tuning, EBEGBE

2

HELLHOUND ON MY TRAIL

(1) I got to keep moving, I got to keep moving, blues falling down like hail
blues falling down like hail
Mmm blues falling down like hail, blues falling down like hail
And the day it keeps on worry'n' me it's a hellhound on my trail
Hellhound on my trail, hellhound on my trail

(2) If today was Christmas eve, if today was Christmas eve
and tomorrow was Christmas day
If today was Christmas eve and tomorrow was Christmas day
(Spoken: Oh wouldn't we have a time baby)
All I would need my little sweet rider just to pass the time away
to pass the time away

(3) You sprinkled hot foot powder around my door, all around my door
You sprinkled hot foot powder all around your daddy's door
It keeps me with ramblin' mind rider every old place I go, every old place I go

(4) I can tell the wind is risin', the leaves tremblin' on the tree, tremblin' on the tree
I can tell the wind is risin', leaves tremblin' on the tree
All I need is my little sweet woman and to keep my company, my company